

Townsend woman named Supervisor of the Year



By Submitted

Townsend resident Cathy Escherich, director of Central Offender Records for the Delaware Department of Correction, receives an award honoring her as the DOC Supervisor of the Year from DOC Commissioner Carl Danberg.

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By Robin Cebula
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The Delaware Department of Correction named Director of Central Offender Records Cathy Escherich Supervisor of the Year at DOC's 18th Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony April 30.

Escherich, who lives in Townsend, said she was shocked when she was announced Supervisor of the Year because usually the award is given to a different section and Central Offender Records is a very important area of the department that is sometimes forgotten.

"They have the banquets every year and records is not always recognized," she said. "I was very pleased, but totally surprised."

The banquet handed out honors for employees of the year and additional accolades for outstanding efforts in the 2008 calendar year. Other award titles included Staff Employee of the Year, Correctional Officer of the Year, Commissioner's Award, Special Events Committee Certificate of Appreciation and more.

Escherich became Director of Central Offender Records in 2004. It was only a few years after she moved from Smyrna to Townsend in 1974 that she started working with the DOC as a records clerk. From there she made her way up to supervisor of records in 1983 and then became information resource manager in 1998.

Escherich received her associate's degree in criminal justice from Delaware Technical & Community College in 1993, which reinforced her interest and decision to be a part of the correctional field.

"I have been in the field of criminal justice and with the department for 31 years," she said.

Escherich said she originally decided to become involved in the job area because her mother spent years as a worker with the DOC.

"I started with corrections to give it a try, but then found that I really enjoyed it," she said. "I never had a desire to go anywhere else."

Escherich said her job and what the Central Offender Records do is calculate the sentence when a judge orders an offender's sentence.

Escherich said the department also updates legal paperwork, creates victim notifications, makes sex offender registrations and more.

"We do anything involved with the offender and the corrections," Escherich said. "I provide a community service by making sure offenders do what the judges order."

Escherich said the DOC cannot proceed with legal information without the records section and this makes Central Offender Records a key player in the overall legal process.

"An important part is making sure offenders pay the penalty," she said, "but we still need to be fair and make sure everything is correct for the offender."

Escherich said her favorite part of her job is meeting different people and being an essential contributor to the legal process.

"I like working with people from all walks of life and I have a great group of people working for me," she said.

Escherich said although her job is very demanding, she believes that Central Offender Records and DOC do a really good job, and all aspects of the work are necessary to perform the position.

"I am very happy with the administration," she said. "I think it's a good place to work and I am perfectly happy. Even after 31 years, I am not ready to retire. I think people need to enjoy their work and the people they work with."

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